

SCRIP TALK

P. O. BOX 444

LOYALL, KY. 40854-0444

VOLUME 29 – DECEMBER 2003 ISSUE – NUMBER 126

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

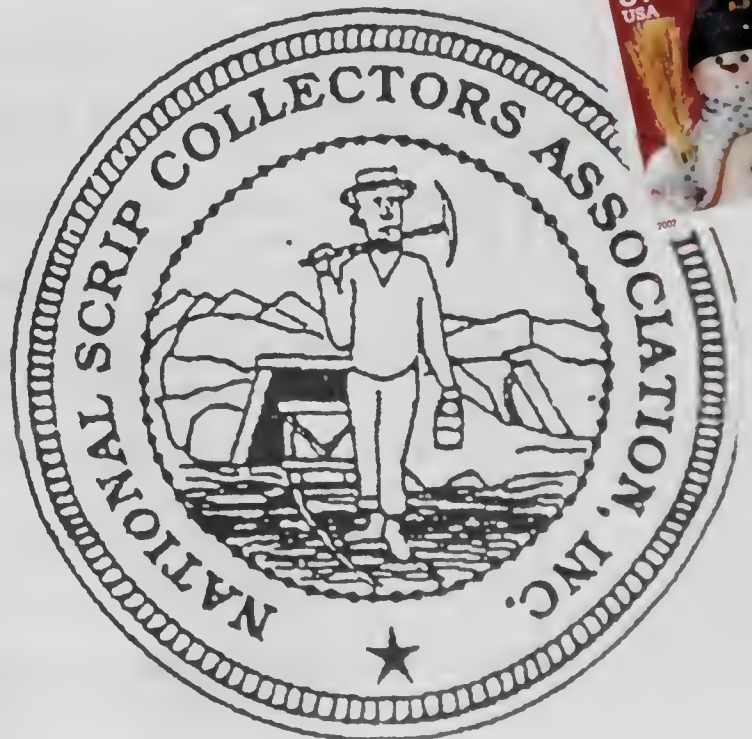
On behalf of President Walter Fletcher and the Executive Committee we want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. May your stocking be filled with R-10's and we can all meet at Bluefield in the spring for the next meeting of the NSCA. *W. C. Fletcher, Sec.*

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TO:



NEW FINDS

Please send all new finds and corrections to the 3rd Edition of *EDKINS CATALOGUE*, all states except West Virginia to:

Crawford Blakeman, Sr.
P. O. Box 356
Middlesboro, KY 40965

All West Virginia new finds and corrections to the current *EDKINS CATALOGUE* are to be sent to:

James Lackey
110 Deer Run Road
Huntington WV 25704-9200

NATIONAL SCRIP COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION 2003 OFFICERS

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40854-0444

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40854-0444



PLASTIC SHOW TOKENS FOR BLUEFIELD SPRING MEETING AND CUMBERLAND GAP FALL MEETING



If anyone would like a complimentary Bluefield, WV show token for the past TWO NSCA meetings for 2003 simply send a stamped self address envelope to the following address and one each will be sent to you.

W. C. Stump, Secretary
ATTENTION SHOW TOKEN
P. O. Box 444
Loyall, KY 40854-0444

ADVERTISING RATES

The following rates are now in effect.

THE QUOTES ARE BASED ON A 8 1/2" X 11" PAGE.

Single issue (Camera ready only)	Annual Contract (Camera ready only)
Full Page-----\$20.00	Full Page-----\$120.00
Half Page-----\$12.00	Half Page-----\$ 65.00
Quarter Page-----\$ 7.00	Quarter Page-----\$ 35.00

OBITUARIES

James (Jim) H. Medd

James (Jim) H. Medd passed away at his home on Nov. 3, 2003. He was born in Oconto, Wis. and spent most of his life in Green Bay, Wis., where he owned Medman, Inc. before retiring to Crossville, Tenn. He held life memberships in the Tennessee State Numismatic Society, the Numismatists of Wisconsin and was a past president and The National Scrip Collectors Association, also being a past President. He was also a Mason and Shiner.

His parents, Wayne and Helen Medd and a brother, Larrie W. Medd, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife Shelia Medd, Crossville, Tenn.; his children James A. Medd, William M. Medd, Tina Marie Brant, Kathleen Rae Largo, Lee Curtis Medd and ten grandchildren all of Green Bay, Wis.; and stepchildren Ray Vann, Lufkin, Texas; and Leslie Starkey, Texarkana, Ark.

There was A Celebration of Life held on Saturday, Nov. 8, in Crossville, Tenn.

Scriptor Bill Williams and Shelia Medd provided this information.

Eddie Steele

Long time supporter and friend of NSCA, Eddie Steele, Bluefield, WV, passed from this life in October. Mr. Steele, age 95, was the Coal Page Editor for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Scriptor Dave Whisman provided this information.

On behalf of all members of the NSCA our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of both departed Scriptors.

NSCA'S BOOK DONATION PROGRAM

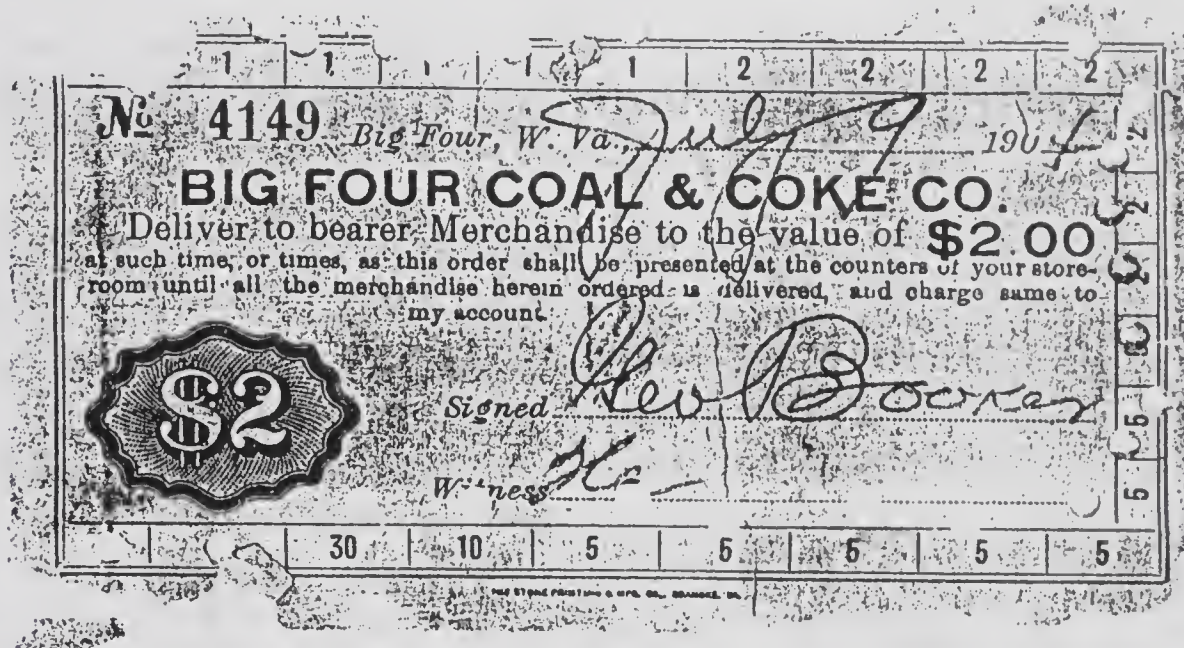
By: Crawford Blakeman, Sr.

New Members may not be aware, and older members may need reminding, of NSCA's book donation program. Any member can request books for public and school libraries and museums. There is no charge for the books. The only requirements are that the member must send a request to Crawford Blakeman, Treasurer, P.O. Box 536, Middlesboro, KY 40965. Shipping charges must be paid by the member or the party receiving the book or books, and a receipt for same forwarded to NSCA. Books in storage are not helping our hobby in the least!

BIG FOUR COAL AND COKE CO.

Submitted by Scriptor Jim Turner

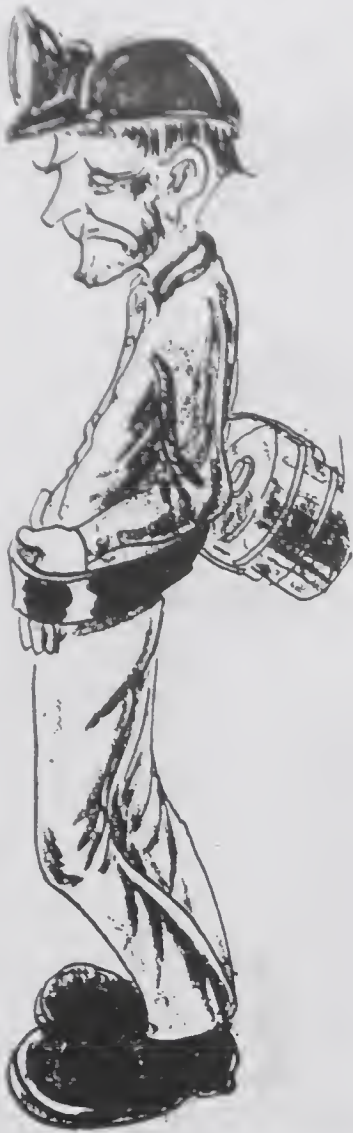
Mr. Jim Turner lived in the Peerless Coal Camp, Big Four, West Virginia, from 1929 to 1949. He can't recall a company store ever being located in Big Four, West Virginia. The Cannelton Coal Company now owns the coal. Attached is proof that coal company paper scrip was issued by a Big Four Coal & Coal Co. in the year of 1904. Sometimes history isn't lost to the quick sands of time.



FINAL RENEWAL NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

THIS WILL BE THE FINAL REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUE FOR 2004. FAILURE TO RENEW BY DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND YOU WILL LOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER STATUS AND YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE FURTHER ISSUES OF *SCRIP TALK*. RENEWALS AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE WILL BE TREATED AS A NEW MEMBER.



Scriptor Chester Friedl submitted the following article and poem that was featured in the BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH. STUART MCGEHEE wrote the article and MICHAEL HORNICK wrote the poem.

COMPANY STORES KEPT MINER'S FAMILIES FED

Central to the company store system of feeding and clothing the region's coal miners and their families was the widespread and wide-misunderstood use of scrip. Paper and coin tokens were used by the company and were redeemable as cash at the commissary, where the miners or their wives could "cut scrip," or receive an advance before payday.

Miners were paid in cash usually twice a month, as then accumulated pay through the tons of coal they loaded, weighed at the scalhouse and credited to the miner's payroll account in the company store.

Often new miners and their families were advanced credit before they had worked long enough to make any money. Scrip could be redeemed at a reduced rate for cash in retail establishments in the nearby-incorporated communities up the railroad from the company town.

Today coal and other industrial currency are highly prized by "scrip hound" collectors and enthusiasts. The Coal Archives contains an extensive collection donated by Mrs. Eugenia Hancock in honor of her late husband Frank Hancock, vice president of Bluefield Supply, which stocked company stores throughout the Pocahontas Coalfield.

THE COMPANY STORE

By: Michael Hornick
Jan. 21, 1973

I bought things for the house, like parts for the stove,
and a couch where the visitors sat.

I needed britches for the kids, a dress from my wife,
and for me, a coat and a hat.

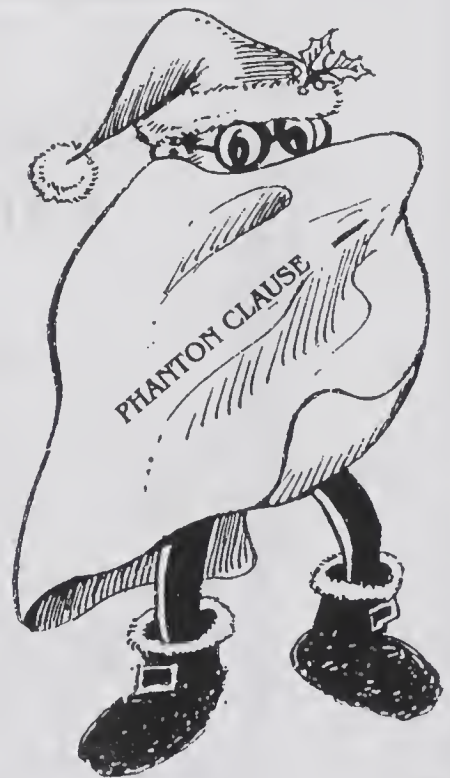
At the manager's office, I talk to the Man; he offered to sell me much more.
Then we figured payments on the installment I had;
down at the Company Store.

Some folks had large families and wanted to work;
and did through at times were not able.
They clothed their young-uns and sent them to school,
and labored for food on the table.

When a man was off sick and couldn't provide,
or perhaps 'twas a widow who was poor.
The neighbors would help, by filing the box
that was placed in the Company Store.

Through the Depression, when times were quite hard,
and Hoover was steering the ship;
The super would write an order for food,
on a special kind of slip.

A thing I would forfeit, for the grant that I got,
were the tags from my Chevy Tudor.
But the note was then honored, as thought it were gold,
down at the Company Store.



WASHINGTON HENSLEY MINE

By: W. C. Stump

The information contained in the following article was made abatable to me through the research of D. E. Hensley, Jr., Gulston, Ky., heir of George Washington Hensley, early Harlan County, Ky., pioneer.

In the late 1980's I was researching the history of the early coalmines that operated in Harlan County, KY. I was looking for coal companies that issued company scrip. During this research project I failed to locate any company scrip, but I discovered the following story, which was very interesting. The subject of the story helped to write the legacy and heritage of our great coal-producing county.

The first recorded coal mine to operate on Cartons Creek, and probably one of the first coalmines to operate in Harlan County was located in the area of Harlan County, Ky., near the area now known as Bardo, KY. The year was 1896, 15 years before the railroad hauled coal from the area in 1911. 1896 also marks the year that Harlan County's first documented coal operator began to mine coal in the county. His name was George Washington Hensley, born in North Carolina around 1838. His mother was Ruth Edwards and gave her soon the same name as her husband. He was nicknamed "Wash's Wash" or "Wash Wash" instead as the typical Junior or George Washington Hensley II. He arrived in Harlan County with his parents around the last part if the 1800's. He grew to manhood and married his cousin, Mary Emaline Hensley, daughter of Enos "Bear" Hensley and his wife Caroline Hensley, both North Carolina natives. He is not to be confused with another George Washington Hensley who was born in 1880 in Harlan County to his wife's father, Enos Hensley, and her stepmother, Alice Fee Hensley, who was the daughter of Abner and Icy Farmer Fee.

Abner Fee owned considerable acreage with rich coal reserves adjacent to "Wash's Wash" Hensley's land near present day Liggett, KY. The Liggett Mining Company purchased part of the land and the mineral rights to the rest.

“Wash’s Wash” bought 200 acres of land from Noble Smith and H. Skidmore in 1859 at .05 cents per acre. According to the old deeds describing the land, it was located “on the waters of Catrons Creek.” In those early days, .05 cents per acre was a bargain even for mountain land.

“Wash’s Wash” mined coal into the early 1900’s from his mine. He sold coal throughout the area and an employee, Sam Scott, hauled coal in a horse-drawn wagon from Catrons Creek along the Hagen Trail to the Martins Fork area of the county. “Wash’s Wash” had a son, named Elijah, who was married to Amanda Edwards. Elijah and “Mandy”, as Amanda was more commonly known, lived in a small cabin next to the Hagan Trail. Since this was the main road into Harlan County and over which goods and supplies came into the county at this time, the trip two days. The wagon traffic provided Elijah and “Mandy” an ample opportunity to profit from their location. They provided the overnight travelers, many who stayed over night with them and other area residents, with meals, cakes and pies. Amanda was well known as an excellent pioneer cook.

“Wash’s Wash” operated his coalmine well into the early 1890’s and later sold most of his land to the Harlan Fuel Company. He also sold some land to the Black Eagle Coal Company and the balance, the area on the north side of his property to the Kentenia Corporation. He received around \$30.00 per acre for the prime coal land of which he only paid \$10.00 per acre. This prime coal land was approximately 200 acres and he made a profit of \$6,000.00. This appeared to be a tremendous profit, however, then land was to yield countless millions in later years. The coal reserves still produced countless tons of quality coal well into the 1980’s, and even to this day.

One of Elijah’s sons was D. E. Hensley, who was one of Harlan County’s first practicing veterinarians. D. E. was self taught in veterinary medicine and practiced for many years in the County. He held a special license to practice issued by the State of Kentucky even though he never attended veterinary school. I personally Mr. Hensley and recall how he saved my pet groundhog’s foot after it was injured in an accident in 1969. His son, D. E. Hensley, Jr., traced his family history

back to the original George Washington Hensley, who was his great grandfather.

George Washington Hensley didn't use company scrip, but when he sold his property to the Harlan Fuel Company he indirectly made it possible for the company's first owner, Elzo Guthrie, to organize Harlan County's longest operating coal mining company. This company did issue company scrip from 1919 until 1958. The legacy of Harlan County coal production, started by this early coal operator, is a noteworthy part of Harlan County's Heritage.

**COMING IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE THE STORY OF
HENRY FORD AND HIS COAL MINING ENTERPRISES.**



COAL ROAD SCRIP

By: Steve Cawood
P. O. Box 128
Pineville, KY 40977
(606) 337-6622

In addition to collecting coal mine scrip, I am a railfan, and as you might expect, my interest in that area runs to Appalachia's coal railroads, the L & N, the Southern, the "Pocahontas Roads" (the N & W, the C & O, the Clinchfield & the Virginian), and the Interstate.

I recently read Ed Wolfe's "Interstate Railroad - Memories of an Appalachian Short Line", (HEW Enterprises, 2003, 192 pp), the third volume of his trilogy on this interesting little railroad which laced together the Louisville & Nashville, the Norfolk & Western, the Southern & the Clinchfield in Southwestern Virginia. All three of Ed's books are packed full of coalfield lore and make for interesting reading.

What I discovered of interest to scrip collectors was a photograph (pg. 38) of an Interstate Railroad pay-slip with deduction for scrip! The geographical range of my scrip collection is Bell County, Kentucky, and those counties surrounding it, which includes Lee County, Virginia (through not Wise County where the Interstate's offices were located in Andover), but I was surprised that I had never learned of this scrip. One of my uncles would let me ride in the Railway Express car on the Pineville to Norton run when I was a boy. Another uncle took me along with him as he called on the miners in Lee and Wise County for McComb Supply, and I thought that I would have at least heard of it.

I immediately called Crawford Blakeman (whom I know possesses ALL knowledge about things numismatic in this area), but he knew nothing of Interstate scrip, though he pointed out that the Southern issued scrip at Spencer (N.C.) for use at its division commissaries, as did the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company in Alabama. I then called Fennie Thacker over at Haysi (Va.), but he too was stumped. Fennie referred me to Elvin Miller and John Taylor, assuring me that between them, they would certainly have some of the Interstate scrip, but no dice there either; neither had even heard of, or seen Interstate scrip, though Taylor was ready to head for Andover!

Not knowing Ed Wolfe, I turned to Ron Flanary, the nationally respected rail historian and President of the L & N Railroad Historical Society, who lives at Big Stone Gap, Virginia, and whom I know was a friend of Wolfe's, and knowledgeable of the Interstate too. Ron (a native of Harlan County) was stumped too! He had noted the same fact in Wolfe's new book that I had, but had dismissed it. Ron assured me that he would help me get to the bottom of it, and he got in touch with the author.

Ed Wolfe, who now lives in Pittsburgh, recently wrote me with confirmation of what I had suspected, but did not want to hear: the Interstate used Stonega scrip.

The Virginia Iron & Coal Company (VICCO) owned both the railroad and the mines. Vicco had established the Stonega Coke & Coal Company at Imboden on its vast Black Mountain reserves near Appalachia, in the late 1800s, and when negotiations with both the Louisville & Nashville and the Norfolk & Western failed to result in freight rates that would yield a competitive rate for coal going North (on the L & N, then building East from Pineville), or East to Tidewater (on the N & W building West from Bluefield), Vicco elected to build it's own railroad to originate its own shipments connecting with the former at Appalachia, and the latter at Norton. Later they opened themselves to the Southern at Big Stone Gap, and to the Carolinas via a connection with the Clinchfield at St. Paul.

Although the Interstate served all of the miners shipping from the areas it served around Appalachia and Norton, first and foremost it served Stonega, and Ed Wolfe's books bear out the paternalistic pattern which existed between Vicco's mines, it's railroad, and the employees of each. So it was no stretch for Vicco's railroad management to arrange for its "good" employees to use Stonega's commissary at Imboden, for credit, since they were all "in the family". I suspect that the Interstate's railroad employees were as familiar to those extending credit at Imboden, as were Stonega's miners. As we say in the Mountains, Appalachia [Virginia], "ain't no big place", even if it included Andover and Imboden!

So, the next time you see a piece of Stonega scrip, think of it as railroad scrip! By the way, anybody have a set of Stonega they wanna trade on? (I think my horizons just expanded to at least one Wise County operator!)

REFERENCE BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE NSCA, INC. AND CURRENT PRICES

1. Edkins Catalogue of West Virginia Coal Scrip – NEW!! \$40.00 + \$3.50 postage.
 2. Edkins Catalogue, All States Except WV - \$30.00 + \$3.50 postage.
 3. Trantow Catalogue of Lumber Scrip - \$40.00 + \$3.50 postage.
 4. Schenkman's Catalogue of Exploder Tokens - \$18.00 + \$3.50 postage.
 5. Dodrill's "20,000 Coal Company Stores" Soft Bound - \$10.00 + \$3.30 postage.
- The above price is to NSCA members. Please send payment to NSCA

Crawford Blakeman, Treasurer
P. O. Box 536
Middlesboro, KY 40965

Phone 606-248-3801
Email chbsr@wwgap.net

DEALERS INQUIRE FOR QUANTITY PRICES.

National Scrip Collectors Association, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2004

FINAL NOTICE

\$15.00 DUES FOR ONE YEAR \$15.00

\$60.00 FIVE YEAR DUES \$60.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$300.00

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Renewal _____ New Member _____

AMOUNT PAID: \$ _____

SEND DUES PAYMENT TO:

William C. Stump – Secretary

P. O. Box 444

Loyall, KY 40854-0444

606-574-0643

Email: wclarkstump@harlanonline.net

DON'T FORGET TO USE THE FREE ADS

As a member in good standing you can advertise FREE OF CHARGE. All you need to do is follow the instruction listed on the FREE AD PAGE and your Free Ads Editor, Steve Ratliff, will take care of the rest. This is another free service to the membership.

~~~~~N.S.C.A. FREE ADS FOR MEMBERS~~~~~

Free Ads are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. **You may send up to four different ads in one mailing.** Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK. All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to SCRIP TALK Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. **SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Steve Ratliff, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, Florida 32583-7343 or E-mail Steve@Ratliff.com** {Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.}

WANTED - AMEAGLE - EDWIGHT - STICKNEY - MONTCOAL - HIGH COAL - MORDEW - 8 to 10 grade. Will pay double book price if perfect. Send price list: James Browne, 1423 Auburn Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113 +

WANTED: COAL SCRIP FROM KNOTT COUNTY KENTUCKY. Send price and describe to: Charles Miller, 200W - 900N, Wawaka, IN 46794

WANTED: FORDSON COAL COMPANY SCRIP, from Kentucky and West Virginia. Write, call or E-mail me at Darrell Rainbolt, 1455 Short Street, Corydon, IN 47112-2200. Phone 812-738-2579. E-mail darrellrainbolt@peoplepc.com

MORE AND MORE SCRIPTORS ARE USING THE CONVENIENCE OF EMAIL TO SEND THEIR FREE AD IN.
SEND YOUR FREE AD TO: Steve@Ratliff.com

FLORIDA TOKENS WANTED - Florida tokens of all types wanted. Send 60¢ stamp for free sample of Florida Token Society's newsletter, TOKENNEWS and request free Florida token. Check out the Florida Token Society web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~r7295/fts/> - you can join and pay dues on-line! Will Steve Ratliff, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, FL 32583-7343 Steve@Ratliff.com

TRADING AND SELLING FOLLOWING: KY and W.Va. coal tokens, exploders, wood, KY and OH Good For Tokens. If interested, request list. Eugene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220-2111 +

THE DIAMOND COAL CO., ALLISON, NM 59-A100. For sale to highest bid. Al Zaika, P.O. Box 65, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-0065 +

WANTED: SCRIP FROM SOUTHERN MINING COMPANY, BALKAN, KY. Any information regarding these pieces would be appreciated! Joe Slusher, 1292 Gray Hawk Road, Lexington, KY 40502 or jbslus2@uky.edu +

POWDER CHECKS, EXPLODERS, EXPLOSIVE CONTROL TOKENS: common to unique - single rare piece, small lot, or entire collection - I'll buy them all! Joseph Pierczynski, 324 Fountain, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4402 760-375-6776 +

WANTED: FAYETTE CO., WEST VIRGINIA SCRIP and denomination from Boone, Dunloop, Eagle, Donwood, Glen Ferris, Montgomery, Vanette, and Sun. Walter Ayers, 428 Earl Drive, Warren, OH 44483, phone (330) 847-8052 +

A REMINDER, "+" AFTER YOUR AD MEANS IT IS TIME TO RENEW

BUYING

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